

THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A diverter valve comprising, a preferably cylindrical housing having a perimeter, and a water inlet, preferably disposed below, a plurality of water outlets disposed at predetermined spaced intervals about the perimeter of said housing, said diverting valve containing a removable cartridge disposed in said housing for selectively aligning the water inlet of said housing to at least one of the plurality of water outlets of said housing, said cartridge including a stationary sleeve having a plurality of water outlet ports disposed at predetermined spaced intervals and permanently aligned with and sealed in relation to said plurality of water outlets of said housing when said removable cartridge is installed in said housing, said cartridge including a rotary stem sleeve contained within said stationary sleeve, said rotary stem sleeve having an inlet, at least one outlet, and a handle spindle connected to said rotary stem sleeve and extending from said diverter valve for manually rotating said rotary stem sleeve within said cartridge, said stationary sleeve including a preferably ceramic disk disposed therewith preferably proximate the bottom of said stationary sleeve and including a water inlet port in registration with the water inlet of said housing to allow water to enter the cartridge, said rotary stem sleeve including an interior and carrying a preferably ceramic disk therein moveable in and out of registration with the water inlet port of said ceramic disk of said stationary sleeve when said rotary stem sleeve is

rotated to fully close and open said water inlet port and thereby allow water to enter said cartridge and to thereafter selectively align the at least one outlet of said rotary stem sleeve with at least one of the plurality of water outlets of said stationary sleeve and said housing by the pre-selected degree of rotation of said rotary stem sleeve.

2. The valve of claim 1 wherein the housing has a threaded interior substantially proximate an open end thereof for receiving said cartridge and for engagement with a threaded retainer provided with said valve to removably retain the cartridge within said housing, said threaded retainer also having an opening for said spindle preferably a cylindrical collar, which may be threaded on the exterior thereof to allow attachment of appropriate trim portions adjacent a handle.

3. The valve of Claim 1 wherein said spindle extending from said rotary stem sleeve is made from plastic material, but the handle engaging fitting is made from brass and is retained in said spindle.

4. The valve of claim 1 wherein said housing includes a bottom and has contained therewith a seal, preferably generally figure 8 in shape to seal the inlet to the valve in relation to the rotating and stationary ceramic disks.

5. The valve of claim 1 wherein said housing includes a channel and said cartridge includes a mating tab to ensure correct alignment of all functions of said valve.

6. A threaded retainer for retaining a cartridge in a cartridge opening of a housing, said opening being threaded about the perimeter thereof , said retainer also being threaded about the perimeter thereof for engagement with the threaded perimeter of said housing to retain said cartridge, and having a cylindrical boss extending therefrom having a hollow for receipt of a stem of said cartridge in use, and being threaded on the exterior thereof to receive trim parts for the valve.